

Message Text

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SUBJECT: BRAZILIAN REACTION TO PARTIAL LIFTING OF CUBA SANCTIONS

1. BRAZILIAN PRESS GAVE CONSIDERABLE COVERAGE AUGUST 22 TO PARTIAL LIFTING OF CUBAN SANCTIONS. ACCOUNTS FROM WASHINGTON, ALL BASED ON WIRE SERVICES, COINCIDED CLOSELY IN DESCRIBING MEASURES LIFTED, NOTING DEPT. SPOKESMAN'S POINT THAT ACTION FLOWED FROM OAS DECISION (TWO PAPERS NEVERTHELESS INSISTED ON SIGNIFICANCE OF ACTION AS GESTURE TO CUBA), AND QUOTING FAVORABLE REACTION OF US CONGRESSMEN (AND IN SOME CASES, OAS SECGEN ORFILA). SOME STORIES ALSO QUOTED FIDEL CASTRO AS TERMING MOVE "POSITIVE GESTURE."

2. PAPERS ALSO CARRIED SIMILAR ACCOUNTS OF REMARKS MADE BY BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN, TO EFFECT THAT GOB WAS NOT SURPRISED BY US ACTION SINCE FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA WAS INFORMED IN ADVANCE BY LETTER FROM SEC'Y KISSINGER, AND ACTION WILL HAVE NO EFFECT ON US FIRMS LOCATED IN BRAZIL AS BRAZILIAN LAW PROHIBITS TRADE WITH CUBA AND NO CHANGE IN THIS POSITION IS

ANTICIPATED. SOME ACCOUNTS ALSO QUOTED SPOKESMAN AS ASSERTING WORLD SUGAR MARKET CONDITIONS MEANT PARTIAL LIFTING OF SANCTIONS REPRESENTED NO THREAT TO BRAZILIAN SUGAR EXPORTS. IN BRIEF
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CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR, SECRETARY GENERAL OF FOREIGN

MINISTRY WAS RELAXES ABOUT THE US ACTION AND RECALLED EARLIER CONVERSATIONS ON SPECIAL LICENSES FOR US SUBSIDIARIES IN ARGENTINA.

3. TWO NEWSPAPERS ALSO CARRIED GARBLED ACCOUNT OF BRIEF REMARKS AMBASSADOR MADE TO REPORTER WHILE AT FOREIGN MINISTRY. AMBASSADOR WAS QUOTED AS SAYING PARTIAL LIFTING COULD BECOME COMPLETE "DEPENDING ON THE COMMERCIAL INTEREST DEMONSTRATED BY CUBA IN RELATION TO AMERICANS," REFERRING TO US SUBSIDIARIES IN "THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES" (INSTEAD OF THIRD COUNTRIES), AND CALLING ACTION A "MEASURE WHICH REAFFIRMS THE DISPOSITION OF HIS COUNTRY TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS (INSTEAD OF COMMERCIAL RELATIONS) WITH THE REGIME OF PRIME MINISTER FIDEL CASTRO."

4. FOLLOWING DAY'S COVERAGE HAS DIMINISHED, WITH WIRE-SERVICE

STORIES AGAIN PREDOMINATING. GENERALLY HIGHLIGHTED WERE ACCOUNTS OF JAMES RESTON'S QUOTE OF FIDEL CASTRO ABOUT ONLY NEGOTIATING ONCE EMBARGO TOTALLY LIFTED, REPORTED FLOOD OF PHONE CALLS TO DEPT. BY INTERESTED US COMPANIES, REITERATION BY DEPT. SPOKSMAN OF US WILLINGNESS SEE SERIOUS CONVERSATIONS BEGUN WITH CASTRO, AND CONFLICTING REACTIONS OF MCGOVERN, BINGHAM, AND CUBAN EXILES IN US. NEW YORK TIMES AND TASS REACTIONS WERE ALSO REPORTED. COMMENT WAS THIN: COLUMNIST NEWTON CARLOS SAID PRESSURE BY INTERESTED COMPANIES WAS MORE IMPORTANT THAN OAS DECISION IN BRINGING US MEASURE, CONCLUDING THAT PERHAPS EVEN OAS DECISION WAS IN LARGE PART DETERMINED BY COMPANIES. COLUMNIST BENEDITO COUTINHO, DECLAREDLY USING JAMES RESTON ANALYSIS AS STARTING POINT, SAID US ACTION WAS RESULT OF PRESSURE FROM LA GOVERNMENTS REGARDING US SUBSIDIARIES IN THEIR COUNTRIES, COUPLED WITH CONCERN OVER PANAMA.

5. SUNDAY PRESS WAS SILENT ON TOPIC EXCEPT FOR BRIEF PIECE IN ECONOMIC SECTION OF ONE PAPER TO EFFECT BRAZILIAN SUGAR EXPORTS WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED, AND SHORT SQUIB IN ANOTHER PAPER ON FAVORABLE REACTION IN ARGENTINA TO US ACTION.

CRIMMINS

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